

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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INFO USMISSION BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2400

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB PFOR DA UR GE

SUBJ: DANISH TRADE UNION RELATIONSHIPS WITH EASTERN EUROPE

REF: COPENHAGEN 2375

SUMMARY: THE CHILL IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) AND ITS SOVIET COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION (AUCCTU), WHICH SET IN WITH THE 1968 CZECHOSLOVAKIAN INCURSION, IS SHOWING SOME SIGNS OF ABATING. ALTHOUGH NO EXCHANGE OF VISITS IS PLANNED AT THE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION LEFVEL, INFORMAL CONTACTS MAY BE EXPECTED IN THE COMING MONTHS. REGARDING OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN CONTACTS, AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE EAST GERMAN FDGB WAS FLATLY REJECTED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

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DANISH LO REACTION COOL TO PROPOSED EAST-WEST TRADE

UNION CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY PEER CARLSEN TOLD LABATT THAT LO RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION REMAIN DEADLOCKED OVER A QUESTION OF PROTOCOL. THE SOVIETS, THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY IN COPENHAGEN, INSIST THAT AUCCTU CHAIRMAN SHELEPIN BE INVITED TO VISIT DENMARK TO RETURN THOMAS NIELSEN'S 1967 VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. NIELSEN, HOWEVER, REFUSES BECAUSE HE FEELS SUCH AN INVITATION WOULD CARRY CONNOTATION THAT DANISH LO ACCEPTS SOVIET 1968 ACTION IN CZECHOSLOAVKIA. CARLSEN HINTED, HOWEVER, THAT IF SHELEPIN OR ANOTHER RANKING SOVIET LABOR ORGANIZATION FIGURE WERE TO STOP IN COPENHAGEN AND REQUEST INFORMAL TALKS, LO WOULD ACCEPT, THUS SETTING STAGE FOR GRADUAL WARMING UP OF RELATIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO CARLSEN, FORTHCOMING OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRIMIN JORGENSEN TO SOVIET UNION IN NOVEMBER WILL NOT EFFECT BILATERAL TRADE UNION RELATIONS AS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND LO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATE MATTERS. DANISH LO HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE, HOWEVER, FROM AFFILIATED UNIONS WHICH HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS INCREASED EXCHANGE VISITS WITH THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPART UNIONS. THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM METAL WORKERS UNION, HEADED BY PRESIDENT PAULUS ANDERSEN, PAID TWO-WEEK VISIT TO SOVIET UNION IN AUGUST.

3. IN CONTRAST TO THESE SIGNS OF RELAXATION VIS-A-VIS SOVIET UNION, THE LO FLATLY TURNED DOWN RECENT INVITATION FROM HERBERT WARNKE OF FDGB FOR DELEGATION TO VISIT EAST GERMANY. AFTER DANISH RECOGNITION OF EAST GERMANY IN JANUARY 1973 LO HAS WATCHED WITH CONCERN FDGB CAMPAIGN TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH DANISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY WITH LEFT-WING ELEMENTS CLOSE TO SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF) AND DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP). MOREOVER, LO WAS IRRITATED WHEN TONI GRON, CHAIRMAN OF DANISH WOMENS UNION AND MEMBER OF LO EXECUTIVE BOARD, VISITED ROSTOCK FOR BALTIC WEEK FESTIVITIES WITHOUT CLEARING WITH LO. IT IS, CONSEQUENTLY, LIKELY THAT LO WILL RESIST THE BLANDISHMENTS OF ITS EAST GERMAN NEIGHBOR FOR CLOSE RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO PROPOSED EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON PERIPHERY OF LO EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY 1974,
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CARLSEN INDICATED THAT THOMAS NIELSEN HAD BEEN CAUGHT BY SURPRISE AND IRRITATED BY ARNE GEIJER'S PARTICIPATION AT THE JULY 28-29 MEETING IN VIENNA. ACCORDING TO CARLSEN, GEIJER HAD BEEN ACTING ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN WITHOUT MANDATE FROM SWEDISH LO MUCH LESS FROM NORDIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION. CARLSEN THOUGHT PROPOSAL MADE BY EAST-WEST TRADE UNION LEADERS AT VIENNA WOULD BE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY AT BRUSSELS ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 28 BUT FORMAL CONSIDERATION WOULD NOT BE GIVEN IT UNTIL ICFTU BOARD

MEETS IN NOVEMBER
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